GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2550
ANSWERED ON:14.03.2016
High Sulphur Content in Petroleum Coke
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Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that sulphur content and other pollutants in Petroleum Coke are very high in comparison to conventional fuels like coal and fuel oil, and causes exponential damage to the environment in comparison to conventional fuels;
(b) if so, the reasons for replacing conventional fuels like coal and oil with petroleum coke;
(c) its impact on environment and measures taken to stop incremental pollution;
(d) whether the Government is aware that China has recently imposed restrictions on the import of Petroleum Coke into country and also has made provisions for heavy penalty on import of Petroleum Coke having sulphur content more than a certain limit;
(e) whether above restrictions by China has resulted into cheap High Sulphur Petroleum Coke being dumped into country at higher pace, thus deteriorating the environment further and steps taken by the Government to restrict dumping of High Sulphur Petroleum Coke into the country; and
(f) the total quantity of Petroleum Coke produced in the country and total quantity imported during the last three years and the current year, refinery-wise, year-wise?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN)
(a): As per information available, the sulphur contents in Petroleum Coke, Coal and Fuel Oil are as following :

Petroleum Coke	Coal	Fuel Oil
Produced from low sulphur crude	Produced from high sulphur crude	
0.6 to 1.5%*	6 to 7%*	
0.2 to 4.5%#	3.5 to 4.5%#	

* Source IOCL
# Source MRPL
(b) & (c): Petroleum Coke is generally used as industry fuel by Cement, Steel, Graphite, Aluminium (etc) industry as per techno-economic considerations. However, the industry is required to adhere to stipulated emission standards.
(d) & (e): IOCL has informed that the domestic Petcoke may be consumed even with higher sulphur content to sustain refinery production/viability as the same gets produced due to introduction of BS-4/BS-5 fuels to reduce pollution and protect our environment. As per information given by Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT), Petroleum Coke import in the country in the last 3 years and current year is given in the Table-I of the annexure.
(f): The details of the Petroleum Coke produced in the country in the last three years and the current year as provided by the Refineries producing the same is given in the Table −II of the annexure.